

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A design support system, comprising:

a device for managing a design file formed of a series of work  
5 procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least  
one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be  
generated on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

a device for recording a work procedure data portion, which  
corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific  
10 information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying  
the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard  
design file to figure element data contained in another design file  
is determined;

a first retrieval device for retrieving a corresponding work  
15 procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which  
is recorded in the specific information, used as a key in order  
to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when  
reference in the standard design file is executed; and

a second retrieval device for comparing a work procedure data  
20 portion of specific information or figure element data with contents  
of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data  
portion is not retrieved by the first retrieval device and  
retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis  
of the compared result.

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2. The design assist system according to claim 1, wherein the  
specific information is figure data resulting from processing of  
figure element data targeted for reference.

3. The design support system according to claim 1, wherein the specific information is an input pattern of work procedure data.

4. The design support system according to claim 1, wherein:

5 the specific data includes figure data resulting from processing of figure element data targeted for reference, and an input pattern of work procedure pattern; and

the second retrieval device retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key, and if work procedure data is not retrieved, retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with the input pattern of the work procedure data itself used as a key.

5. The design support system according to claim 2, wherein:

15 the figure data includes a name determined for each of figure element data by a draftsman; and

the second retrieval device retrieves figure element data targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key by comparing names determined by the draftsman.

6. The design support system according to claim 4, wherein:

the figure data includes a name determined for each of figure element data by a draftsman; and

25 the second retrieval device retrieves figure element data targeted for reference with the figure data as specific information used as a key by comparing names determined by the draftsman.

7. A design support method, comprising:

managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data,

which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information, used as a key in order to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data with contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the retrieval and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result.

8. A recording medium storing a design support program and being computer-readable, wherein the design support program contains the following:

a module for managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

a module for recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying

the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

5 a first retrieval module for retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information used, as a key in order to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

10 a second retrieval module for comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data with contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the first retrieval module and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result.